

‘Somewhat of a waiting game’



RACHEL ADAMSON | NW MISSOURIAN

As of Sept. 1, the latest data available at time of publication, at least 189 of the active COVID-19 cases in the county are infections from Northwest students and staff.

COVID-19 cases still holding firm

ANDREW WEGLEY  
Managing Editor | @andrewwegley

It’s been a full week since the 7-day rolling average of daily COVID-19 cases in Nodaway County first trekked into the twenties Aug. 26 with 24.7 cases per day. In the seven days since then, the county has averaged at least 25 cases a day, as the total case count has more than doubled since in-person and hybrid classes started at Northwest Aug. 19.

In the days after a mass email from University President John Ja-

sinski warned students that Northwest might “soon be sending our students home” if they didn’t begin “adhering to basic mitigation efforts” Aug. 21 the county’s daily case average jumped from less than 10 per day to where it is now, mostly ebbing and flowing between 25 and 30 case per day over the last week.

But even as cases have skyrocketed both in the county and at Northwest, where there are at least 189 active cases COVID-19, the University, as well as city officials, appear to be in a holding pattern, as the daily case count holds firm and as the county’s death toll mounts.

“Not right now,” City Manager Greg McDaniel said in a phone interview Sept. 2. “I think it’s one of these things that, obviously, the data changes daily and the situation’s very fluid. And so, we will

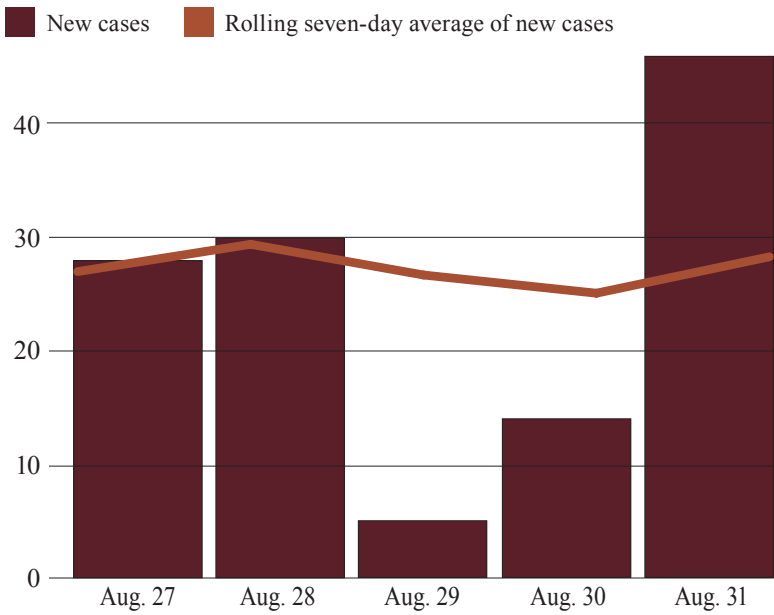
keep, you know, on the agenda from here on out as far as COVID-19-related discussion.”

There were 273 active COVID-19 cases in the county as of Aug. 31 — the latest available data point at the time of publication — and close to 70% of those involve Northwest students and staff members. There have been six coronavirus-related deaths in the county. When classes started, there had been one.

Maryville’s city council — which McDaniel said has been in consistent contact and agreement with representatives from the Nodaway County Health Department, Mosaic Medical Center - Maryville and the University — has mulled implementing further mitigation measures since passing a citywide mask ordinance July 22.

SEE COVID-19 | A4

COVID-19 CASES PER DAY IN THE COUNTY



Local law enforcement agencies adapt to pandemic

KENDRICK CALFEE  
News Editor | @calfee\_kc

While juggling mitigation efforts, enforcing a local mask mandate and working to keep inmates at the jail safe, Nodaway County Sheriff Randy Strong did everything he was advised to do amid the local response to the coronavirus pandemic. But he still tested positive for COVID-19.

“It’s just the reality of the pandemic,” Strong said. “(I was) careful but still got it.”

Strong has seasonal allergies. He said with a high pollen count in August, he began the month already congested. But the night of Aug. 28, he felt the congestion with increased intensity and felt bad enough to get tested for COVID-19.

The day of his test, he was in such a state of exhaustion that he fell asleep in his parked car while waiting for his rapid-test results. Later stumbling into the care center with a temperature of 104, he heard what came at no surprise to him — he was infected with the coronavirus.

Relieved from duties for the time being, he was sent into isolation. Strong says his story, one among many law enforcement personnel nationwide, shows why tak-



GRACE ELROD | NW MISSOURIAN

UPD Officer Kristian Martinez plays with baby kittens Sept. 1. Local law enforcement agencies, including UPD, Maryville Public Safety and the Nodaway County Sheriff’s office, have had to change some protocols due to COVID-19.

ing extra precautions, on and off duty, is important.

“It just really drains you,” Strong said about the physical toll of the virus. “My biggest fear is that I may have exposed my wife to it.”

Strong is one of many Nodaway County first responders who have been an influential role in local COVID-19 relief efforts, adjusting their operating strategy to fit the Centers for Disease Control

and Prevention and local health official guidelines.

Even with new preventative measures in place, those patrolling the county are at risk for exposure, balancing public safety and

their own.

Strong was one of many in Maryville working to enforce a local face covering ordinance that went into effect in July. He said the department had to make obvious adjustments like furthering sanitation efforts, learning how to social distance when enforcing laws and wearing a face covering on duty.

The county jail had to undergo changes to protect inmate and employee health. Visitation became limited to virtual meetings with approved individuals, and with funds from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act, the department purchased special ultraviolet lights, which kill the virus, to be used in the jail and in patrol cars.

Initially, the state provided local law enforcement guidance, but later on, the Nodaway County Sheriff’s Office and Maryville Public Safety had to adapt and find their own ways to serve and protect in unprecedented circumstances.

“What we discovered very early is that the courthouse, with as old as it is anyway, is certainly not set up to deal with a pandemic,” Strong said. “Nor is the jail.”

SEE POLICE | A4

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# Safe Ride adapts to follow CDC guidelines

**SIDNEY LOWRY**  
Missourian Reporter I @sidney\_lowry

The Safe Ride Home program, offered through Northwest’s University Police Department, has undergone changes during COVID-19 mitigation. Not only is the service following the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines by requiring drivers and riders to wear face coverings, but Safe Ride is also putting a pause on their consistently running shuttle routes around Maryville.

Students still have access to the shuttle stops, but they are now required to use the TapRide app or call UPD to get in touch with a driver to use the service.

The TapRide app is offered on Android and iOS, and it functions

when the Safe Ride Home program is operating. Service hours are remaining the same as years past, with their late night taxi stops going from 10 p.m. to 2 a.m. on Wednesdays and Thursdays and until 3 a.m. on Fridays and Saturdays. This year the shuttle stops will have the same hours, running 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays and 12 p.m. to 4p.m., but the student will need to use the TapRide app to contact a driver.

UPD Lt. Amanda Cullin, who oversees the Safe Ride Home service, explained how the service is changing to still be helpful yet safe during the coronavirus pandemic.

“It is an express service that transports individuals or a few people who live and learn together from one location to another,”

Cullin said. “Drivers will disinfect between rides, increase ventilation and have hand sanitizer available along with the face covering requirement.”

Safe Ride Student Manager Josh Williams said the changes are small, but important.

“The only big difference is having to wear a mask in the van. Other than that, not going to each shuttle stop and staying local, and when we get a call from the TapRide app, that’s when we go. It’s a lot less driving on ourselves and the vans,” Williams said.

Even though the drivers are doing extra sanitation, Williams said some students might feel uncomfortable using the service and not social distancing with a stranger.

“It’s the close proximity,” freshman

man Mason Ward said. “You never know if someone just so happened to have been around someone else who may have been exposed, especially if they don’t show any immediate signs of COVID.”

Freshman Faith McManemin has used the Safe Ride Home program within its first few weeks of operating since the COVID changes, and said that she didn’t have many concerns with her experience.

“Everyone in the van was wearing a mask, but the seats aren’t as far apart as they should be,” McManemin said. “I think the service is good and there’s no reason why people shouldn’t use their resources if they’re available and safe.”

On top of the changes that have been made to the execution of the service, the hiring process has undergone

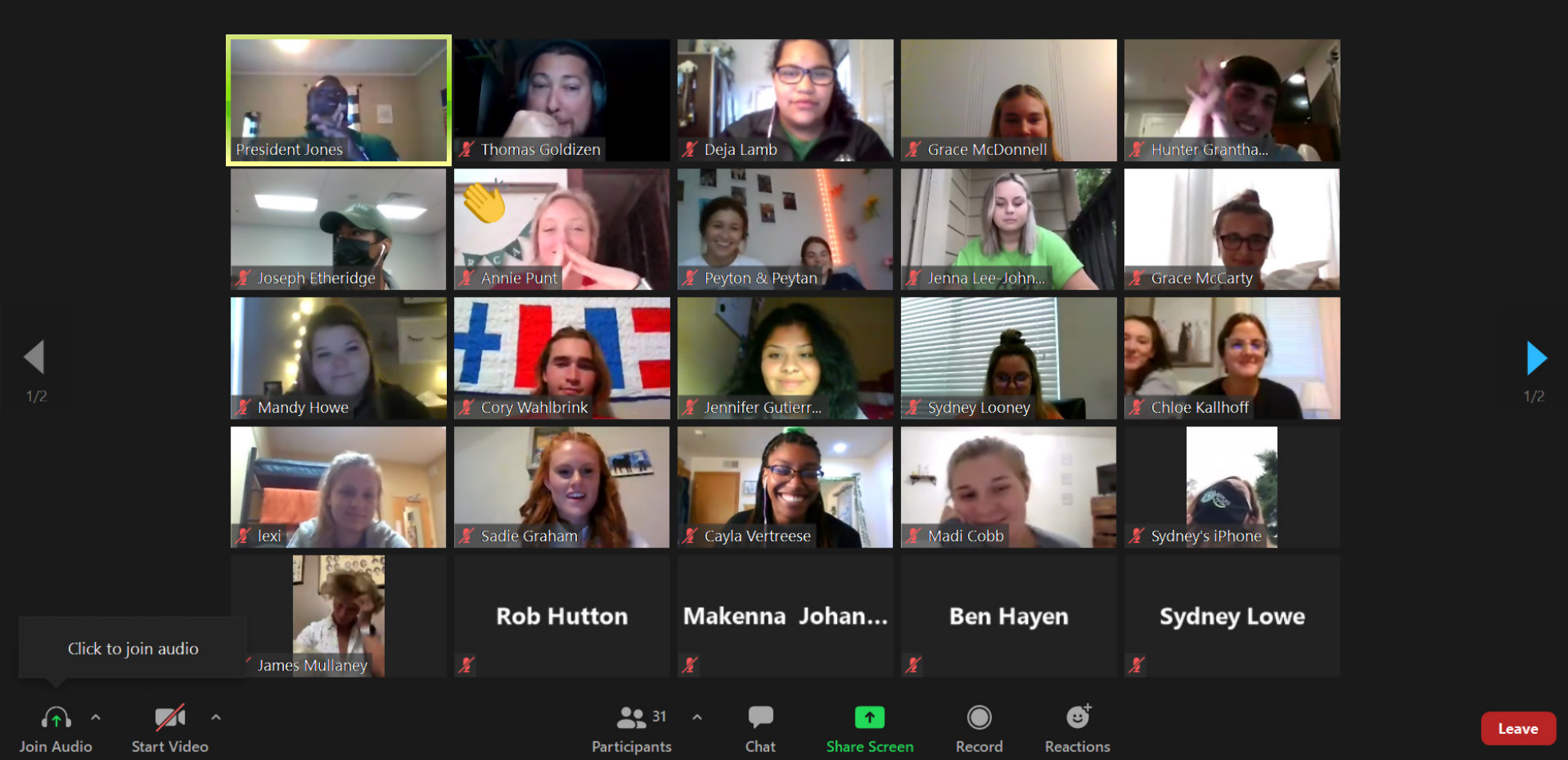
work to make it fit CDC guidelines.

Students are still free to be hired this year to become drivers, but the face covering rule applies to all parts of the interview process as well as the rides.

Students can access the UPD page on the Northwest website for information about employment and general Safe Ride frequently asked questions.

The shuttle services will be the same time as well, but instead of running the shuttles, they are relying on the TapRide app for students to get in touch with drivers.

Through their changes of following the CDC guidelines, as well as more overall sanitation of the vehicles, the Safe Ride Home service continues to operate for students during the pandemic, with extra caution.



SCREEN CAPTURE | NW MISSOURIAN

The 98th Student Senate meets virtually via Zoom in its first official meeting of the fall semester Aug. 25. Student Senate can’t make appropriations until students can meet in person again.

# BUSINESS AS USUAL\*

\*Student Senate searches for normalcy while meeting via Zoom

**SAMANTHA COLLISON**  
News Reporter I @sammiecollison

In spite of strict limitations to gathering on campus preventing most student organizations from operating this semester, Student Senate is continuing its duties to the student body entirely virtually.

Secretary Bailey Hendrickson said because of the moratorium on student organizations hosting or traveling for events, no appropriations can be made until students can meet in person again.

The 98th Student Senate held its first meeting Aug. 25 on Zoom, and

Hendrickson said future meetings will be recorded and/or streamed on Facebook Live. All committees are meeting entirely virtually as well.

“As an Exec Board, we decided it would be best if we held meetings via Zoom in order to keep our members safe,” Hendrickson said in an email. “Student Senate as a whole is doing everything we can to make sure that we stay on campus for as long as possible.”

The handful of vacant on-campus and off-campus representative positions from the spring were filled Sept. 1 through the internal election process, which includes nominations by sitting senators and a senate-wide vote the following week.

Freshman class representatives will be elected through the usual process.

It’s unclear what Student

Senate’s role on campus will look like when its primary money-giving arm — Organizational Finance — is hobbled by COVID-19 restrictions, but Student Senate President Kirayle Jones has encouraged the group to advocate for preventative measures against coronavirus.

“I wear my mask so we can all continue to make great memories and friendships at a place we all love. Join us. Stay happy & healthy! GO BEARCATS!! #BearcatsCare @NWMOSTATE,” Jones tweeted from the @NWMOSTatePres account along with a short video.

Hendrickson also spoke out about mask-wearing, saying she’s begging students to wear masks and social distance on and off campus for the sake of themselves and others.

“We understand there are major changes going on and we are asking

that the student body remain patient and continue to do so,” Hendrickson said in an email. “We would also like to let the student body know that even though we aren’t able to meet in person, we want them to know that we would love to help in any way that we can. These are hard times and Northwest students care for each other.”

Freshman class representative elections are still going forward and committees beyond Organizational Finance are continuing with business close-to-usual.

“The 98th Student Senate’s primary objective is the same as past years. We want to always be the voice of the student body,” Jones said in an email. “We want to make sure we listen to thoughts, questions, and concerns of each student. We have to be there in these difficult and uncertain times.”

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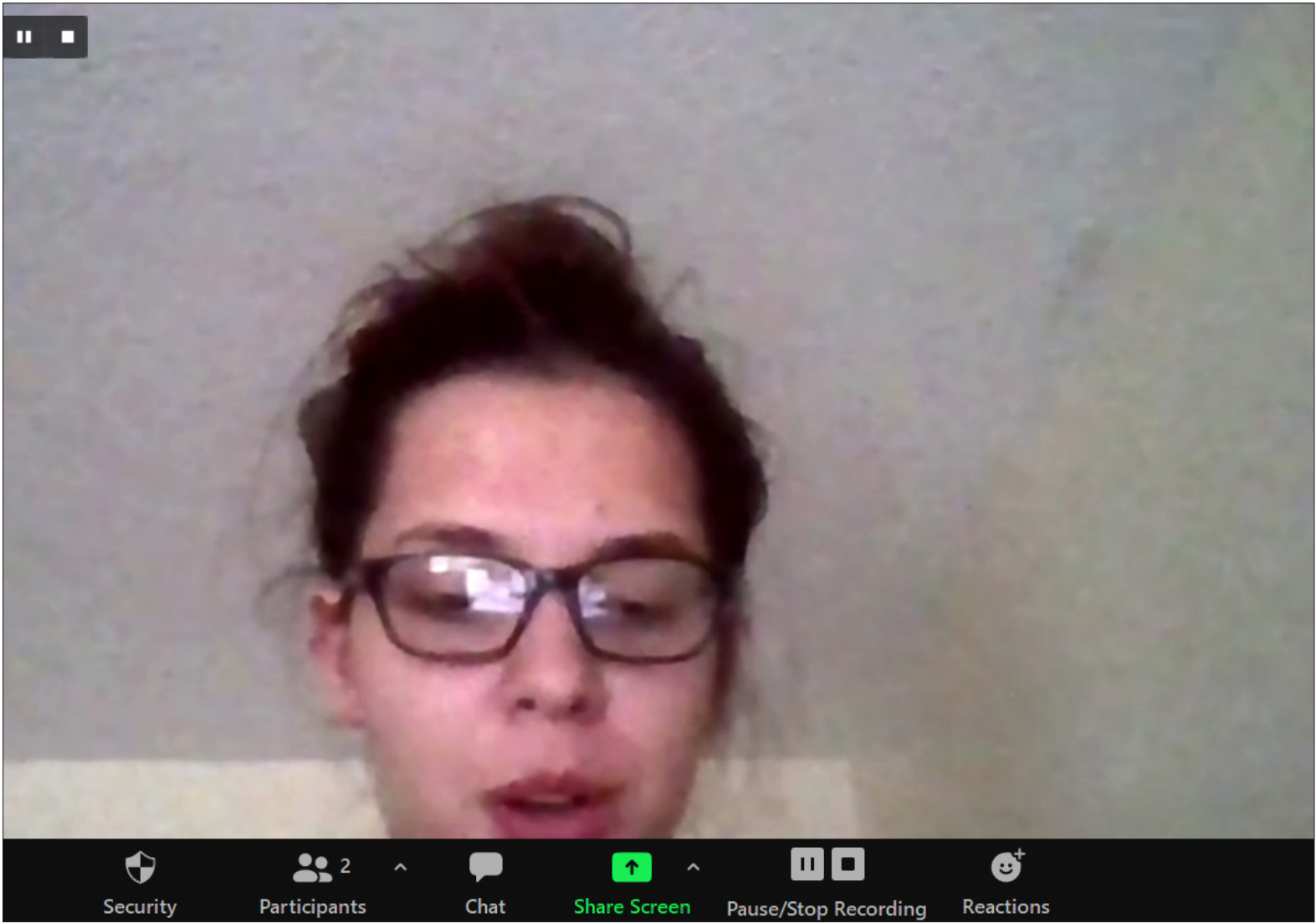
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SCREEN CAPTURE | NW MISSOURIAN

Jena Henderson stays comfortable in the basement with her own bathroom, blankets and a television to herself.

# Student faces ‘inevitable’ fears

ABIGAIL STARR  
News Reporter | @abeystarr5

Jena Henderson woke up Aug. 18 with the worst back ache of her life, no appetite and a splitting headache. She knew something wasn’t right. The Wellness Center told Henderson, a freshman at Northwest, she couldn’t get a COVID-19 test until 48 hours after her symptoms started. She missed her first day of classes Aug. 19, still in pain, attending via Zoom.

On Aug. 20, Henderson gripped the sides of her car’s seat as a cotton swabbed twirled in her nose for 30 seconds. Less than two hours later, her results came in. She tested positive.

“I definitely cried,” Henderson said. “I knew it was inevitable so I didn’t wear a mask unless I absolutely had to and hoped I’d get it over the summer, but that didn’t work out.”

Henderson went to two house parties on the night of Aug. 15, telling herself the coronavirus couldn’t strike her first weekend in Maryville.

“I came here to get out of the big city and be where there’s less people, and I still ended up positive and going home,” Henderson said.

As of Sept. 1, Nodaway County had 553 active cases and six deaths.

Henderson never had a fever but was still told not to take fever-reducing medications in order to keep an accurate log of her temperature for the duration of her 10-day quarantine.

“My back hurt so bad the first couple days; I wanted to take Advil but couldn’t,” she said. “I had to call my mom to make sure I could even come home because my dad had just had surgery and my sister was a teacher.”

Concerned for the well-being of her family,

Henderson is quarantined in the basement. With her own bathroom and trash bag, she tries to enjoy solitude but misses human interaction. Her family leaves her meals outside the basement door and sometimes throws an ice cream sandwich down before bed with an “I love you, text me if you need anything!”

“I highly recommend quarantining at home where you get meals with all five food groups and plenty of space,” Henderson said.

Henderson was required to turn in a list of people she’d been in contact with 48 hours before her symptoms started. The Wellness Center then contacted each of them to advise those students to quarantine for 14 days. The Wellness Center did not disclose who had exposed them.

In a list of instructions from the Wellness Center, students who test positive are also required to talk to the Wellness Center every few days via Skype or Zoom. The goal is to provide a sounding board for ill students to manage symptoms and answer questions.

Henderson’s days are now filled with Zoom meetings, puzzles, Netflix and a new book. With all her free time, she’s on social media more than ever and has noticed freshmen taking to their phones to blame upperclassmen for the spike in cases.

“Freshmen get on Snapchat and call out juniors and seniors for partying and say freshmen don’t want to pay for them making bad decisions,” Henderson said.

In an email to students, Northwest President Jasinski encouraged students to follow guidelines and attend University-regulated events following the first weekend on campus.

“The time is now, Bearcats. As we head into another weekend, we need you to take serious-

ly not only your health and safety but that of those around you,” Jasinski said in the message.

The email ended with a list of on-campus activities and a warning to Bearcats.

“Without adhering to these basic mitigation measures, Northwest will soon be sending our students home as the University of North Carolina, Michigan State University and Notre Dame did this week. Don’t let that happen to us,” Jasinski said.

Henderson admits the email made her laugh despite her situation.

“My friends don’t want to go to Jeopardy night,” she said. “They want to do college stuff even though they see where I am.”

Henderson emerged from isolation on Saturday, Aug. 29 to go to the mall with a friend. She fainted and paramedics were called.

“I asked my friend to get me to a wall, and I kind of just slid down the wall slowly,” Henderson said. “My friend is a CNA and she said my eyes were open the whole time but knew I wasn’t there.”

Henderson went home to rest and hydrate. On Sunday evening, she returned to Maryville but chose to tune into her Monday class via Zoom.

“It’s a transition right now, but my professors are recording lectures and walking us through assignments,” Henderson said.

She plans to continue attending class from her dorm in Hudson Perrin until Thursday. Over the holiday weekend, Henderson plans to return home to babysit and attend an 18 and older party at a local club.

“I’ll actually get to see my friends and make some money,” Henderson said. “My mom would like to have actual family time where they can see my face.”

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CRIME LOG  
for the week of Sept. 3

Northwest Missouri  
State University  
Police Department

**Aug. 30**  
A summons was issued to Fabien Calloud, 20, for leaving the scene of an accident near Colden Hall.  
There is an open investigation for property damage.

**Aug. 29**  
There was a closed investigation for a liquor law violation at Franken Hall.  
There is an open investigation for harassment — bias motivation at South Complex.

**Aug. 28**  
There was a closed investigation for four liquor law violations at Dieterich Hall.  
There is an open investigation for disorderly conduct at the Station.

**Aug. 27**  
There is an open investigation for property damage at Lot 32.

**Aug. 26**  
There is an open investigation for giving false information to a University Official.

**Aug. 25**  
A summons was issued to **Collin Kenny**, 21, for disorderly conduct.

**Aug. 24**  
There is an open investigation for property damage.  
There is an open investigation for stealing at the Olive Deluce Fine Arts Building.

Maryville Department  
of Public Safety

**Aug. 30**  
There is an ongoing investigation for a stolen motor scooter on the 400 block of West Seventh Street.

**Aug. 26**  
A summons was issued to **Cris G. Wilmes**, 47, for a city code violation on the 1000 block of East Jenkins Street.  
A summons was issued to **Eric J. Shipley**, 31, of Bentonville, Arizona, for wanted on warrant — failure to appear

on the 400 block of North Market Street.

**Aug. 25**  
A summons was issued to Garyn M. Miller, 21, of Knox City, Missouri, for driving while intoxicated on the 1000 block of North Buchanan Street.

**Aug. 24**  
There is an ongoing investigation for a stolen vehicle on the 200 block of North Main Street.  
There is an ongoing investigation for larceny on the 300 block of South Main Street.  
There is an ongoing investigation for a stolen motor vehicle on the 400 block of South Laura Street.  
There is an ongoing investigation for theft of trash services on the 1300 block of North Main Street.

**Aug. 23**  
A summons was issued to **Bailey R. Barnes**, 20, for possession of a fake I.D. and presenting false information to a protective service officer on the 1000 block of North Mulberry Street.  
A summons was issued to **David M. Grant**, 38, for driving while intoxicated and failure to obey a posted stop sign on the 500 block of West Seventh Street.

**Aug. 22**  
A summons was issued to **Jesse G. Ramsey**, 28, of Barnard, Missouri, for a city code violation on the 500 block of East First Street.

**Aug. 21**  
A summons was issued to **Taylor R. Coffelt**, 20, for minor in possession and careless and imprudent driving on the 600 block of North Fillmore Street.

**Aug. 20**  
A summons was issued to **Gireesh Koneni**, 22, for not having a valid driver's license and an equipment violation on the 1100 block of South Main Street.

**Aug. 19**  
A summons was issued to **Maile R. Baker-Dehaan**, 19, for wanted on warrant — failure to appear and failure to register a motor vehicle on the 400 block of North Market Street.  
There is an ongoing investigation for financial exploitation on the 400 block of North Main Street.  
There is an ongoing investigation for financial exploitation on the 300 block of Volunteer Avenue.

City close to done  
with downtown  
pocket park project

KENDRICK CALFEE  
News Editor I @calfee\_kc

A new addition to Maryville some Northwest students may have noticed on their way to campus is the downtown pocket park, featuring a historic fountain located on the corner of Third and Main streets.

When complete, the park will feature a shelter designed to resemble the one-room schoolhouse that the city utilized long ago. Builders are gathering materials to put the shelter together and even pulled materials from the actual schoolhouse to use in the project.

The city is also looking for an artist to help with the final piece of the pocket park project — a mural aimed to be representative of the Maryville community.

“We’re certainly interested and open to any art students or professors who want to be involved with the project. I encourage them to contact me,” City Manager Greg McDanel said.

Another city project nearly complete is the Thomson Splash ‘N’ Play, a splash pad located on the corner of South Munn and Highway V. Construction on this project began in April and lasted about 90 days. McDanel said the city is considering opening it for a couple days this year.

“There’s just a lot of other elements to that project like parking, restoration of the land that are being worked through. It’ll definitely be open by next spring” McDanel said.

While holding the weight of stopping the spread of a global pandemic on their shoulders, the city has made headway with sever-

al projects that were planned long before coronavirus began affecting small towns in America.

City councilman Tye Parsons is one of many city staff who voted in approval of ordinances to make these projects happen.

Parsons said planning the city’s focal-point project, the South Main Improvement Project, has been happening in the background during the COVID-19 pandemic.

“Pandemic or not, business of the city still has to go forward,” Parsons said. “We know that this pandemic will die down, and when it does, we need to be ready to move forward.”

The South Main Improvement Project saw a delay with the engineering process due to setbacks from the coronavirus. Originally slated to begin July 30, it is now set to begin construction in January 2021.

The large focus of the project is to improve pedestrian travel and safety, aid traffic flow and beautify South Main Street from South Avenue to the Highway 71 bypass.

After receiving a \$10.4 million Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation, the city was able to set up a system where traffic can be diverted on separate lanes and flow efficiently while construction takes place.

Without the grant, the project would have been completed in multiple phases, over a longer period of time.

FULL STORY ONLINE:  
NWMISSOURINEWS.COM

COVID-19  
CONTINUED FROM A1

McDanel said the council has weighed potential limits on gatherings and business occupancies, as well as a nuisance party ordinance that would crack down on social gatherings, like the string of parties Aug. 15 that prompted Northwest to test 78 students Aug. 21 who were exposed to COVID-19.

Councilman Tye Parsons took to Twitter Sept. 1 and polled followers on what measure they thought might be most effective. In his poll, Parsons included the options McDanel described as well as increased mask enforcement. Maryville Public Safety Interim Director Ron Christian said not a single summons has been issued to a Maryville citizen for non-compliance as of Sept. 2 — though McDanel said the ordinance, which is set to expire at the end of this month, is “doing its job.”

“Mask ordinances are very tough to enforce,” McDanel said. “Right now our enforcement is education and compliance. ... I think, generally speaking, it’s gone pretty well.”

While McDanel said the council could still take further actions, he said any additional measures would

“Until the whole community is on the same page, this virus will continue to spread.”

-SHERIFF RANDY STRONG

POLICE  
CONTINUED FROM A1

To curb this issue, a portion of the jail was converted into an isolation area, where inmates who showed symptoms would be housed separate from the general population. Every day, staff members are screened for symptoms and have their temperature taken.

As of Sept. 2, there have been no positive cases of COVID-19 among inmates in the jail.

Sheriff deputies and Maryville Public Safety Officers alike are now weary of any call they go on, keeping in the back of their minds that they may come in contact with someone who is sick. Dispatchers are asking callers, in situations where someone will be sent to the scene, if anyone is having symptoms.

Strong said normally when an ambulance is called, a deputy will accompany the emergency medical technicians at the scene for any help they may need. Now, unless they are absolutely needed, deputies avoid this kind of extra contact with county citizens.

The county also had to let minor traffic stop violations like expired plates go without intervention, as long as it wasn’t a hazard, in order to limit contact. Additionally, all undercover narcotic activity, like controlled drug buys, has been suspended until those actions are safe for officers again.

In these ways and more, the novel coronavirus has been affecting law enforcement nationwide since at least March. Small communities in middle America like Maryville are more recently seeing the virus’ overwhelming effects on resources, primarily through law enforcement and the criminal justice system.

A recurring issue that just became worse for Maryville during the pandemic is the municipal court’s backlog of cases yet to be tried. Though they are scheduling out court dates, COVID-19 has seeped into this part of the justice system, delaying cases and seeing more pile on when municipal court was suspended for mitigation concerns.

“Court was suspended for a long time,” Strong said. “When it opened back up, things got very labor intensive.”

Working through the backlog of cases, the judiciary had significant action when it came to the county jail. Offenders of nonviolent crimes were released with judges approval, clearing space in the 44 bed facility for offenders who were deemed a danger to the community.

Strong said this change also came with elements of criminal justice reform, which is coming in waves across the country. In Nodaway County, when local ordinances went into effect, crime rates went down and the jail was less crowded.

“People aren’t being held in jail

be made in coordination with the Health Department and the University. And McDanel emphasized that no plans are imminent, a sentiment echoed by Northwest’s Vice President of Student Affairs Matt Baker last week.

Most of the University’s COVID-19 cases have come from the off-campus student population, which accounts for 143 of Northwest’s 189 active COVID-19 cases, according to Northwest’s COVID-19 dashboard. The dashboard, which Northwest’s Secretary to the Board of Regents Melissa Evans said is “nearly identical to the University’s current internal dashboard,” was made public last week in response to a records request submitted by The Missourian.

There are more active cases among Northwest students now than there were total cases in the entire county at the start of August. And while the daily case count dipped slightly over the weekend, with the county recording five cases Aug. 29, the average has surged again, fueled by a single-day total of 46 cases Aug. 31.

McDanel acknowledged that as the county’s case load mounts, so does concern among city officials and area decision-makers. But he said whether the increasing cases could be considered alarm-

ing depends largely on what population groups are affected. The spike in cases has been almost entirely driven by college-aged students, with nearly 70% of the county’s total cases involving patients aged 10-29.

68%  
of active COVID-19 cases  
in the county involve  
Northwest students  
or staff

And McDanel said he’s hopeful the county’s average caseload, which has hovered near 30, won’t compound, leaving the county, the city and the University playing somewhat of a waiting game as the virus continues to surge.

“With no further guidance from the state or the feds, we’re on our own here a little bit,” McDanel said. “That’s a challenge. ... I think when you step back and you look at the increase, I think we knew this was probably going to happen.”

interim director. “Our primary objective when enforcing it is to get compliance without issuing tickets or a summons.”

Christian said Maryville Public Safety has the goal to primarily educate Northwest students of the ordinance, why it is in place and get compliance without force.

“We don’t want to write tickets if at all possible,” Christian said. “We just want people to be safe so everybody can focus on college experience rather than being sick.”

Christian said the biggest issue Maryville Public Safety is having to curtail in the community is irate customers who would arrive at an establishment and feel they didn’t need to wear a mask.

Stolte is one of many Maryville Public Safety officers who has responded to angry community members throughout various city ordinances in response to the pandemic.

People have called public safety when denied service for not complying to the face covering mandate, asking officers to force an establishment to provide service.

“It doesn’t matter what they refuse them for. That’s not on us; that’s not our concern,” Stolte said. “What we can enforce is the fact that the business no longer wants that person on their property.”

At that point, when informed of their options, the angry customer has always complied, and as of Sept. 2, no arrests have been made for direct, aggressive noncompliance to the ordinance.

Despite extra stress and having to change some operational strategies, officers and deputies have remained hopeful during local response to COVID-19.

“My end goal every night is to get home to my family and get my fellow officers home to theirs,” Stolte said. “If everybody can just come together for a little bit, I think we can beat this.”

Northwest University Police Chief Clarence Green sent a tweet Aug. 19 with a video addressing students, encouraging them to follow mitigation measures.

“This year will be filled with challenges, and a ton of them will be linked to the constant changes that will be occurring,” Green said.

In the video, Green noted UPD will undergo additional training and submitted an application to begin Law Enforcement Accreditation. This process is rigorous, he said, and less than 25% of law enforcement agencies are accredited.

University Police, the county sheriff’s department and Maryville Public Safety often collaborate on issues. Strong said agencies all share the same top priority.

“We’re all on the same page,” Strong said. “We all see the common goal is to take care of (the community). Until the whole community is on the same page, this virus will continue to spread.”



# THE STROLLER: Your Bearcat wants online classes

I know lots of students are stressed at the thought of going back home after just a few weeks. Thankfully, there are many social distancing steps Northwest is taking to make sure that we all get the in-person education that we already paid for.

But there are two sides to every coin. I get, I get it. You want the “college experience.” You want “in-person classes.” You want “to learn.” Whatever.

I, for one, have been doing everything in my power to ensure another straight-A semester. For that to be the case, Northwest has to convert fully into Zoom University by Sept. 4.

Spring 2019’s early wrap-up made the rest of my semester’s coursework cake, and my GPA reaped the benefits. For the same thing to happen this time around, it’s going to take a concerted effort from the brave few ’rona advocates among us. The good news is, as of now, the undefeated coronavirus has at least a 160-something case lead against the University, and the number is growing daily.

Catch me at The Pub every Tuesday night, Corona Extra in hand and mask in pocket, making as many new friends as possible. I’ll also be attending as many parties that are thrown, obviously to maximize my contacts per day. It doesn’t have to be just me though, many of our fraternities have been ahead of the game on this for weeks.

If you would also like the easiest term imaginable, don’t be shy. Attend large gatherings, always dap up your friends, cut air slits into your mask, pass your joints and never answer your phone when the health department calls.

*The Stroller has been a tradition since 1918 and does not reflect the views of The Northwest Missourian.*

## OUR VIEW:

# WAKE UP Students must recognize racism

### Editor’s note:

This editorial was written in response to a letter we received in response to a column published in The Missourian last week describing racist attitudes in the community. The Missourian’s editorial board strongly disagrees with the racist sentiments expressed in the letter but chose to publish it after consulting with several on-campus entities in an attempt to highlight the fact that racism remains present, if not rampant, in the Maryville community and on Northwest’s campus.

Black students being called the N-word as they walk through campus, numerous social media posts from former and current Bearcats documenting racism on campus, our very own columnist stating he doesn’t always feel safe in Maryville because of his skin color and a letter to the editor that is racist and abhorrent. Racism is at Northwest, and unless we all do something about it, it’s not going away.

A certain amount of backlash was expected after the publishing of “Being black in Maryville means never feeling safe.” Given the current political climate, it was expected that some would line up against our columnist in a feckless pursuit to prove that racism and white privilege do not exist in Maryville or anywhere else in the U.S. However, the venom, malice and racism displayed by those in the community, particularly the author of a letter to the editor sent to The Missourian, demand a direct response from this newspaper and the Northwest

community.

The audacity of a white person to attempt and tell a person of color that they don’t experience racism is something that will never make sense. You don’t tell a victim of child abuse their trauma isn’t valid because you yourself weren’t abused as a child, because that would be asinine.

The letter is not veiled in its racist statements. The author frequently referred to Black people in a derogatory way, stating that “they” act like toddlers and seek handouts from the government. The author also wrote that he is tired of “racial grief” and hearing the concerns of people of color.

“Get off your butt, go to work, do your best, uphold your family name,” wrote the author, a Northwest student, who conveniently ignored the numerous challenges Black people face in America such as the wage gap, police brutality and systematic racism.

This kind of rhetoric seems more in place in a Jim Crow era than it does a whole two decades into the 21st century, but that is the sad reality we live in.

Racism did not end with segregation; that is apparent if anyone has spent any time in a comment section of a post about people of color. Northwest, to its credit, has been ramping up its efforts to combat racism ever since the senseless killing of George Floyd by a Minneapolis police officer.

The Office of Diversity and Inclusion has hosted numerous events, including a town hall on June 23 with faculty, alumni and students. They recently received a \$1 million dollar gift from Karen

L. Daniel Legacy Fund that will help them build a resource center for Black students. Every member of the Board of Regents, as well as 99% of all of Northwest staff and faculty, completed mandatory diversity training.

The Office of Diversity and Inclusion is also looking into providing more in-depth training related to bias and privilege and is planning to announce required student training in September, said Dr. Justin Mallett, associate provost of diversity and inclusion.

The University is doing an admirable job attempting to create a place free of racism, but for Northwest to truly combat the hateful plague, it’s going to take all of us.

Listening to minorities when they talk about their experiences with racism, taking action when we see racism happening on campus and holding people accountable are things we all can do in order to make everyone feel safe at Northwest.

All of these things may sound like boring cliches from a high school assembly, but they are as important now as they have ever been. Everyone, whether Black, white, Latino, Asian or any other race, deserves to feel safe and secure on Northwest’s campus. Free from racism and fear. The letter to the editor this week is the opposite of that. It is full of hate, judgment and despicable language that has no place anywhere, especially at Northwest.

We all must do better to make the experience better for those around us.

## YOUR VIEW:

### Do you think racism is present at Northwest?

**NIAH KAHLINDT**  
Freshman  
Graphic Design



“No, I haven’t seen or heard anything yet, so I would say no.”

**NAOMI DAUGHERTY**  
Freshman  
Elementary Education



“Not that I’ve seen but I am sure it is. I just haven’t witnessed it firsthand.”

**SHREEYESHA PRADHAN**  
Sophomore  
Dietetics



“Yes, I’ve seen basic ones like people not wanting to work with African Americans and stuff like that.”

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR:

# A response to never feeling safe in ’Ville

### Editor’s note:

We received this letter to the editor in response to a column published in The Missourian both online and in print last week describing racist attitudes in the community. The Missourian’s editorial board strongly disagrees with the racist sentiments expressed in this column but chose to publish it after consulting with several on-campus entities in an attempt to highlight the fact that racism remains present, if not rampant, in the Maryville community and on Northwest’s campus.

Dear NW Missourian,

The other day, I was in my living room with my two other roommates and one of them got an update on his phone from the newspaper. An article titled “Being Black in Maryville Means Never Feeling Safe” had just been released, and when we read it, our tempers hit the roof. I’ve been putting up with the racial grief for months now and haven’t said anything, now I’ve just had my limit and would like to speak my mind

to all of you.

This young man who wrote the article made the impression that just because he has a different skin color, he doesn’t feel safe in Maryville and he trembles in fear of “the roar of a pickup and the thud of boots on pavement.” I’m going to call him out. He just called everyone who wears boots and drives trucks a racist, whether he knows it or not. I’ll tell you who wears boots and drives trucks: It’s the working man and woman. And it’s the reason I’m writing this, to stand up for them.

I don’t see how just because they have a darker skin color than I do, it gives them the excuse to whine, fuss and act like toddlers over nothing much at all. They are expecting things to be handed to them by all governments, local, state and federal. If those governments give in, the expense comes down to the working men and women who have no interest in these protests and/or riots. They are just trying to get by and raise their families and do what they can when they can, or maybe

they’re just trying to help where they are able and get their dreams off the ground like myself.

My question is: why? They grew up in the same country I did, with the same rights, and they were not slaves, and I was not a slave owner. As a matter of fact, I had many relatives that wore Union blue and fought to preserve the nation in the Civil War. So let me ask an obvious question. Could I say in today’s world that I get nervous when I see sports cars and the people driving them are black and have on shirts too large and gym shorts only pulled up to their knees? No. Why? Because I am a white male and that would be considered racism. But it’s fine if they can get away with it. See the issue?

The young man at the beginning article also said that a young woman was staring at him as she rode by, and the author said it was probably because of his skin color. He never considered maybe she was impressed at his appearance, maybe she liked the color of his shoes, or his fly was unzipped, perhaps? My point is, so what she gave you a

look? With respect, sir, buck up.

The worst I have ever been looked in my life happened my first year in Maryville. The Tower Suites flag football team was in the playoffs, and we were playing Franken. Since we were the aggies, I dressed up to support them and wore my best cowboy hat, a nice button up shirt and work boots. I walk in and do my farmer’s lean against one of the bleachers next to where the Franken supporters were.

After a while, I glance over and see 15 big ’ol boys glaring at me like, let’s say like farmers would glare at Bloomberg right after he told them they were stupid. I never experienced such a look in my life, and although I wouldn’t consider myself the sharpest barb on the wire, I sensed a little hostility in their body language.

Then I saw one of my friends from seminar class, and we got to talking about odds and ends stuff from farms to sports to hometowns. Then one of the glaring boys asked me a question about cattle. I answered and then someone asked me

another question, and I asked one, and so on and so forth. Next thing I know, I’m friends with everyone on the bench.

Now, what if I told you about 10 to 11 of those boys were black; would that make a difference? No, it didn’t make a difference. Being kind to your fellow man is being kind to your fellow man, no matter how you cut it. And this is all coming from a man who came from a school district with low, single-digit number of black people, if that means anything to anybody.

To wrap it all up, quit feeling like you deserve something because of the color of your skin. God loves you all just the same as he does me. Get off your butt, go to work, do your best, uphold your family name, tell a police officer thank you for maintaining enough order to where we all can sleep at night in peace. God bless our soldiers, emergency personnel and our working men and women. And God bless the United States of America.

Sincerely,  
Kyle Viers

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ANDREW WEGLEY  
Managing Editor I @andrewwegley

It’s been almost six full months since COVID-19 first arrived in Missouri. Gov. Mike Parson held a press conference March 7 to announce the first patient to “test presumptive positive” for the virus, back when cases were still rare across the state and the country, still a full week before the governor declared a state of emergency that hasn’t really ceased. And the six months since then have been something. The death toll from this virus has never stopped growing. It’s nearing 1 million

globally. The economy crashed and hasn’t fully recovered. Protests broke out nationwide and haven’t ceased. Sports were postponed, and some won’t resume again until at least next year. There have been mask ordinances and fights over them. There have been hurricanes and wildfires and a wind storm. All these things, separately, would have been enough to upend lives, but they’ve all come at once. This year has been full of hardships, so we asked 30 people in Maryville — from students to coaches to business owners to preschoolers — amid a global pandemic and nationwide protests and a dizzying cycle of unfortunate events, one question:

# “WHAT WAS THE HARDEST PART OF THE LAST SIX MONTHS?”

“When I got sick — and it was pretty rough for a few days — it kind of hit home to focus more on my health, because I didn’t eat healthy, drank a lot of pop; I wasn’t exercising. I was overweight, to be honest with you. I’ve lost 25 pounds. I’ve changed my habits — so it was kind of a wake-up call for me. It did kind of wake me up and help me get in much better shape. I think it was just kind of, ‘What does tomorrow hold? How do you adjust?’”

- Austin Meyer | Northwest women’s basketball coach and COVID-19 survivor



“The hardest part is probably, like, juggling everything that’s going on, you know? Because you have this aspect that you’re, like, stuck in quarantine because of the virus, and then all of the racial injustice that kinda makes you feel sick to your stomach. So I feel like the hardest part has just been — I don’t even know how to describe it. Just this feeling of not knowing what’s coming next but knowing that it’s not going to be good.”

Bryana Jones | Northwest student



“My uncle is in a nursing home, and we knew that he was getting bad. And my mother really wanted to see him, and she could not see him. And she was — she had a hard time accepting that. And she was on me a lot about not making arrangements for her to be able to see him, and he died last week. So I think that, that was probably the hardest.”

Brenda Lewis | Senior Instructor, writing and literature



“I would say having to deal with people who don’t believe in science in that aspect, since a lot of people are very anti-mask and that kind of issue, so there’s been an issue about that just everywhere we go. That’s a personal issue that I really do not care for, ... mainly just around town, just seeing a lot of people who were very obviously not following the mask ordinance.”

Rachel Francisco | Barista, Board Game Cafe



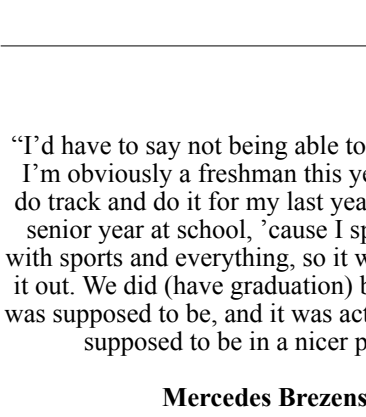
“After spring break, realizing I don’t get to spend the last part of the semester with my friends who were about to graduate. Then the protests, really, I think the biggest thing was just seeing a lot of people kind of say, ‘If you don’t act a certain way,’ they’re gonna treat you entirely differently than they would normally if they saw you ... because they don’t agree with how we’re voicing — as an African American community — how we’re voicing opinion. It was hard to see that.”

Joshua Williams | SafeRide employee



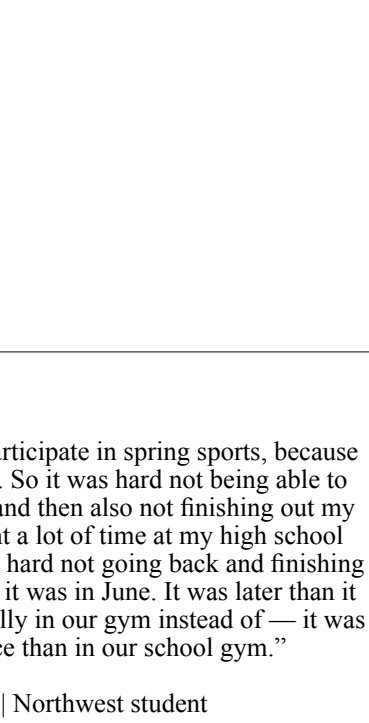
“I’ve had the COVID, and I can’t taste or smell right now hardly. I mean I think I get a little — yesterday I was eating a blueberry muffin, and I thought I got a little whiff of it. And my smell wasn’t ever — as I got older, it diminished anyway. You sort of take that for granted. And then my taste. Like today I was eating raw onion with my sandwich, and I knew I had something, but I couldn’t taste the onion. So, that part. I’m worried about this nation — the country as a whole. ... I noticed in the paper the other day bankruptcies are up. People don’t have a lot — I’m expecting — they’re not working, don’t have the money to pay the bills. So what do you do?”

Robert Lager | John C. Redden Power Plant employee



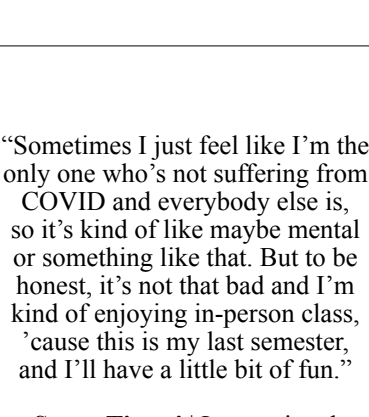
“Actually, we are missing in-person classes, coming to the University and class work we’re missing, mainly. But because of this virus, I think staying remotely and doing the work is good, and working on campus is. ... Most of us plan to go (home each summer), but due to this, there were no flights, so we stayed here.”

Rahul Kolla | International student



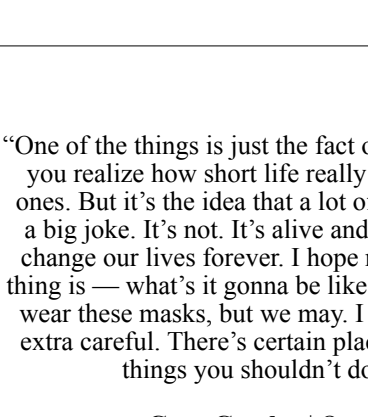
“Going from what it used to be in life and then, like, in the split of a second, in a matter of weeks or even days, everything just changes on you. And being from the class of 2020, it ruined a lot of stuff. Our class, we weren’t able to do prom and stuff, and I was one of the very few lucky ones that were even able to walk the stage. My mom was scared as all get out. And I had my fears about it, like getting it, ‘cause my grandma had COVID. It was pretty bad when she had it. Just the fear of being at risk, going to school with thousands of other students at the same time, walking around, with classes with all these students. Just the fear of catching it, and something could happen, you know what I’m saying?”

Ja’Mes Vines | Northwest student



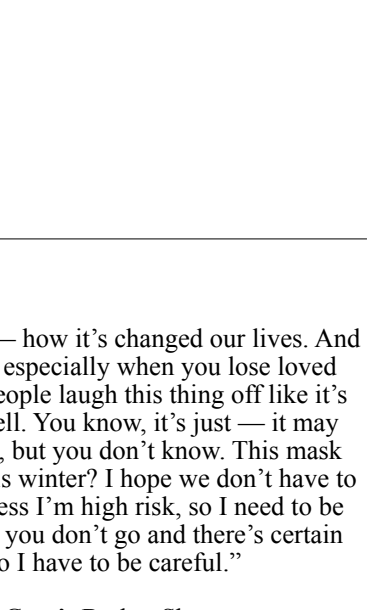
“The last two weeks. This whole place has changed, and we have to do so much in this little area, (and) I always have another person with me, so we’re not more than a foot or two apart. And we’ve got this little area. But the masks and taking care of everything, it’s just — it’s just been very hard on me. Maybe because I’m old, you know? We also have to tally everybody coming in and everybody going out, so you’re constantly watching everything. ... And I think they’re kind of short, too — short staffed. It seems like it. But I don’t know. I don’t mind it, except that it’s just having to watch everything, especially when there’s only one here.”

Donna Yanks | 10-year Campus Dining employee



“I’d probably say the hardest part for me is getting everyone to understand — and I’m only coming from this from the issues of race perspective — providing understanding to all of our students about the actions and the work that Northwest is doing to address issues of race. I — I really hope our students understand and see the work that we’re doing and where we were six months ago, as related to race, to where we are now on this campus — it’s really night and day.”

Justin Mallett | Associate Provost of Diversity and Inclusion



“I’d have to say not being able to participate in spring sports, because I’m obviously a freshman this year. So it was hard not being able to do track and do it for my last year, and then also not finishing out my senior year at school, ‘cause I spent a lot of time at my high school with sports and everything, so it was hard not going back and finishing it out. We did (have graduation) but it was in June. It was later than it was supposed to be, and it was actually in our gym instead of — it was supposed to be in a nicer place than in our school gym.”

Mercedes Brezenski | Northwest student

“Sometimes I just feel like I’m the only one who’s not suffering from COVID and everybody else is, so it’s kind of like maybe mental or something like that. But to be honest, it’s not that bad and I’m kind of enjoying in-person class, ‘cause this is my last semester, and I’ll have a little bit of fun.”

Sagar Tiwari | International student



“One of the things is just the fact of — how it’s changed our lives. And you realize how short life really is, especially when you lose loved ones. But it’s the idea that a lot of people laugh this thing off like it’s a big joke. It’s not. It’s alive and well. You know, it’s just — it may change our lives forever. I hope not, but you don’t know. This mask thing is — what’s it gonna be like this winter? I hope we don’t have to wear these masks, but we may. I guess I’m high risk, so I need to be extra careful. There’s certain places you don’t go and there’s certain things you shouldn’t do, so I have to be careful.”

Gary Greeley | Owner, Gary’s Barber Shop







“For me, one of the most challenging things is being effective as a professional while trying to survive as an individual.”

One of the most challenging things, especially working in the diversity and inclusion field, is to be both fully myself but also be able to sort of compartmentalize a bit. Sometimes I have to stand in front of a room or be on a Zoom call with people who don't look like me, who don't share the same life experience, and I facilitate difficult dialogue. I have to be able to encourage this dialogue and this learning and this understanding while also being fully myself as a queer Latino who didn't go to school here, who is not from the area, who doesn't believe the same way that the majority of the people here believe, who doesn't live the same way. For me, one of the most challenging things is being effective as a professional while trying to survive as an individual.”

Adam Gonzales | Diversity and Inclusion Coordinator



“There’s a combination of things. You know, if we think about COVID, I worry about the physical aspects of it, the medical, but also the relationship building. We’re missing opportunities because we can’t see someone’s face, you know, and I’m old. Most of my style is all person-based, talking with people, meeting with people — but you can’t do that much anymore. So that’s a huge impact. I’m worried about just our faculty, staff and

students — how are they doing? How are they responding to all of this? I think everybody’s tremendously resilient, so it’s going a lot better than what I have in my mind. Around race, I think that’s a — that’s been very, just, personal. And really impactful from the aspects of just, it’s really uncovering a lot of things that have happened in the past as well as things that are currently going on and how we’re responding to them. Being in a leadership role,

you know, I have a lot of direct influence over implementing some change, and so that’s really inspiring to know that I can impact that change, but make sure I’m gathering enough voices so that we can make the right change so that we’re not doing something out of a personal passion versus what’s best for the institution.”

Clarence Green | University Police Chief and Vice President of Culture



“Knowing which mask to wear when. And knowing that to tell the public, because the CDC’s information changes, and you gotta keep up. They’ve created a COVID line now, which is helpful. But before there were patients calling and asking us all the time what they should do and we had to try and keep up with what COVID was saying and what was happening in the local area to tell patients the right thing. The hospital does a really good job about trying to keep us safe, making sure we have the equipment we need and the information as up-to-date as we can get it.”

Pat Giffin | Nurse, Mosaic Medical Center-Maryville



“It’s just been crazy. I had a knee injury, and that’s just been in my head right now, you know? Colleges are closing down. It’s hard to make decisions and stuff, but there’s things going on that are more important than football, more important than college right now. Just got to focus on what we can control and just keep our minds right. Love your neighbor. Be nice to everyone.”

Ben Walker | Maryville High School athlete



“Wow. Um. You know, I think everybody’s gonna say generally the same thing, but managing the unknown — it’s been, it’s been a challenge. For local government specifically, with COVID in mind, without consistent policies from the state and the feds on coronavirus response, it’s put each community, at least here in Missouri, on our own to find solutions to deal with the pandemic and the health crisis. That’s been the tough part. I mean, the ability of wanting to do more, you know on a — more in general. Whether we’re talking about racial issues, diversity, equity and inclusion, COVID-19. Just the sheer desire and ability of wanting to do more, and I know that feeling is shared by many public service employees as well as elected officials.”

Greg McDanel | City Manager

“When I actually couldn’t work, because I clean houses for a living, and if I don’t work, I don’t make any money. It was hard. I mean, you know, you had to worry about what you were gonna do. And it wasn’t enough to file for unemployment, but it was a deal. And I’m a widow, so I live by myself. My daughter just graduated with her master’s, so I was still trying to help her for school. It would vary. I’d have some people call me and say, you know, we just don’t feel comfortable having you come in (to clean). So I’ll just be glad when it’s all over with.”

Gail Henggeler | Housekeeper



“Jesus. The uncertainty. Particularly in job security. That’s been tough — not knowing exactly what it’s gonna look like, sending my soon-to-be 18-year-old son into this world as an adult. It’s been difficult. He’s a senior right now, but he’s gonna be graduating. Knowing his senior year is different — I mean, COVID’s got a big asterisk on everything. Curious about the long term effects of it. I mean, the hardest part — telling people they can’t go to work. You know, that sucked. We talked about (keeping our kids home from school). Not really, I mean — what are our options there, really? And they both wanted to go back. My wife and I both teach, so we’re kind of resigned that we’re gonna get it, you know? We both teach.”

Matt Johnson | Instructor and Maryville city councilman



“Just getting used to the masks, I think, more than anything. But that’s part of it, so we’ll deal with it, I guess. And I miss having the college kids there when they come to our church and so forth. It’s nice to have you guys around; it really is. ... If I think about it, that’s another part of the reason I’m dealing with it. I hope it gets over pretty soon. I’m getting tired of always dealing with it, because I deliver meals on wheels to different people out in the country who can’t go to the grocery store and do that. Other than that, we all have problems, just different ones.”

Marie Walsh | Meals on Wheels distributor





Standing on the sidelines, a group of Maryville football players wait to get their turn on the field during practice. In the first game of the season Aug. 28, Maryville lost to Blair Oaks 51-8. The Spoofhounds were without nine of their players against the Falcons due to undisclosed COVID-19 related issues.

# Football trounced by Blair Oaks

CALVIN SILVERS  
Sports Reporter | @CalvinSilvers

The Maryville football team filed one-by-one into buses for the two and a half hour trip southeast to Walton Stadium, located on the campus of University of Central Missouri, for their neutral-site matchup against Blair Oaks.

However, the team seemed to have left their energy, and good luck, on the bus. Maryville’s sluggish start, having to leave nine starters back in Maryville and seeing starting quarterback Ben Walker get hurt, led to a dismal showing in the season debut.

The Falcons extended their winning streak against the Spoofhounds to three games Aug. 28, winning 51-8.

Blair Oaks (1-0) used its fast-paced offense to its advantage, leaving Maryville (0-1) in the dust. After a three-and-out to start the game for the Spoofhounds, it took less than four minutes for the Falcons’ quarterback Dylan Hair to find an open Jacobi Marble for a 5-yard touchdown. The missed extra point gave Blair Oaks a 6-0 start. On the pursuing drive, the Spoofhounds looked to have found their stride. Senior quarterback Ben Walker connected with senior wideout Caleb Kreizinger for a 33-yard bomb, one that placed the Spoofhounds inside the Falcons’ 15-yard line.

However, disaster struck the Maryville offense. A collision in the backfield led to a fumble recovered by the Falcons, where it took a bleak moment for the Falcons to travel 85 yards for an eventual 15-yard touchdown run by senior running back Jayden Purdy.

Maryville’s next two possessions lasted a total of one minute 18 seconds, including another fumble. The Spoofhound defense saw both a 44-yard and a 25-yard touchdown come via the arm of Hair to pile onto the Falcons’ lead.

Hair finished the night with 3 touchdowns passing and Purdy ran

the ball into the endzone four times. Maryville coach Matt Webb knew the dual-threat quarterback would be hard to control.

“He did a good job hitting tough passes tonight and running the ball,” Webb said. “We couldn’t make plays to get off the field and Hair had a lot to do with that.”

Not only were the Spoofhound offense and defense stalled throughout the night, but special teams also found itself not being able to capitalize.

On Walker’s sixth punt of the night, he used his rugby-style punt to try and pin the Falcon’s deep in their own territory. The ball had no airtime and was a straight bullet to Jake Closser, the return man for the Falcons. This allowed Blair Oaks to set up blocks, ones that allowed Closser to take it 48-yards to the end zone.

As the first half began to wind down, Maryville was once again ready to punt it back to the Falcons. However, Blair Oaks was ready for Walker’s rugby-style punt and sent a blitz. The blitz left Walker grabbing his left knee in the backfield, where the athletic trainer rushed to his side.

“You don’t really know his status until he goes through a doctor’s evaluation,” Webb said. “He’s heartbroken, but we’ll see where he can go after being examined.”

While the extent of the injury is unclear, Walker was able to limp to the Spoofhounds’ sideline under his own power. He did not return the rest of the game.

Down 44-0 at the midway point, the Spoofhounds found themselves scoreless through two quarters, similar to last year’s game against Blair Oaks. Last year’s deficit was 23 points at halftime. This year’s was nearly double that.

“I don’t really know what contributed to the slow start tonight, if I did I’d be a coach in the NFL,” Webb said. “They completed on third down and we didn’t. We have to be able to convert, move the chains and play process football.”



During practice, senior wideout Caleb Kreizinger leaps to snag a catch. Maryville football will look to avoid an 0-2 start to a season for the first time since 2005 when the Spoofhounds play host to Harrisonville Sept. 4 in the ‘Hound Pound.

The second half began much like the first half. While Maryville had the Falcons on third-and-10, Purdy seemed to have been shot out of a cannon. Running straight up the gut, Purdy got past the maze of arms from Maryville’s defensive line to break away for a 40-yard touchdown. This would be the last score for Blair Oaks.

The backup quarterback for the ‘Hounds, Drake Connor, got his moment of fame on his second possession of the season. Connor, behind the sticks on third down, rolled out to his left and threw the ball 10 yards downfield to an open Kreizinger. Kreizinger did a quick sidestep to avoid a Falcon defender and ran the ball 29 yards for the lone Spoofhound touchdown of the game.

With the running clock becoming a factor due to the score, the second half was 38 minutes long, which allowed Maryville three possessions.

While Walker’s injury is an area

of concern for Maryville’s offense, nine other players missed out on tonight’s matchup against the Falcons. Webb was unable to go into specific detail on why.

“We live in a COVID time,” Webb said. “There are regulations that I cannot comment on why they’re out, but things are COVID related.”

And, after Maryville’s rough start to a new decade, everything came to an end.

Four turnovers, the starting quarterback getting injured and key players missing by Maryville never allowed the ‘Hounds to show their true potential.

Maryville will host Harrisonville (1-0) in the ‘Hound Pound Sep. 4 for the Week 2 matchup. Webb is hoping his players keep their heads up.

“We all get an opportunity to get better every day,” Webb said. “We’re gonna look at ourselves in the mirror and get a little bit better and look towards Week 2.”

## HOUNDS CONTINUED FROM A10

Webb is confident in his team’s depth and has full trust in whoever he puts in the quarterback position. “It’s the next man up,” Webb said. “I’m 100% confident that whoever is at quarterback will be able to execute our offense, go down the field and put points on the board.”

Another blow to the Spoofhounds was the COVID-19-related issues.

Webb, or anybody else, can’t provide specifics on individuals out due to contact tracing. However, junior lineman Blake Casteel was one of the nine who didn’t attend the game against Blair Oaks, according to a comment his dad made on Facebook.

The situation revolving around this group is COVID-19 contact tracing. Students are assigned seats in classrooms, making it easier to trace who was around an individual that could’ve possibly been exposed to the virus. This makes the tracing process very individualized. Depending on the outcome of a test, it will create a specific time frame of how long an athlete is out.

If Casteel remains unavailable, it could spell out trouble for Maryville. The running game starts upfront, and the Spoofhounds are known for their run-based offensive attack. In their matchup with Blair Oaks, the ‘Hounds failed to get any momentum going in their run game.

“Our line of scrimmage play is not where it needs to be,” Webb said. “For our backs to be able to get a crease and get some yardage in the run game, we need to be able to play better upfront and execute our run plays better.”

The ability to solidify a running game early will keep the Wildcats on their toes.

“The running game needs to be way better than last week,” Houchin said. “It’s very critical to get it going early as it’ll open up other options during the game.”

A huge emphasis coming into the Week 2 matchup is Maryville’s defensive ability to stop the Wildcats’ junior running back Jace Reynolds. Allowing four rushing touchdowns in their game against Blair Oaks, the Spoofhounds will try and limit the Wildcats’ run game.

Reynolds comes into the 2020 season after tallying 17 touchdowns with an average of 6.6 yards a carry in his 2019 campaign.

“To be able to contain a player of that caliber you have to play great team defense,” Webb said. “We have to make sure we win the line of scrimmage battle. We have to play with great technique upfront, and when we get the opportunity to tackle him, we have to tackle a lot better this week than we did against Blair Oaks.”

The spread offense Harrisonville will bring into the game is led by the experienced senior quarterback River Riley. Riley brings in 14 touchdowns on an average throw of 14.7 yards. In last year’s matchup, Riley had 198 passing yards accompanied by two touchdowns.

Webb understands the time between Week 1 and Week 2 is a great learning experience for both players and coaches, and it can set the tone for the rest of the season.

“You have a real great opportunity between Week 1 and Week 2 to make a lot of improvements,” Webb said. “You have an opportunity to see yourself perform as a player against a really good team. You look at film, and you see what you did right and what you did wrong, and you focus on those improvements.”

Houchin believes the time spent reviewing film will ultimately lead to improvement across the board.

“We are going to fix ourselves before looking towards anything else,” Houchin said. “All of us are getting better as the day goes, and that’s all we can focus on.”

This will mark the first time Maryville will get to play at the ‘Hound Pound this season. With a mere three home games this season, Webb is excited for this moment.

“It’s awesome. It’ll be a sense of comfort and our kids are excited,” Webb said. “We got a lot of proud tradition of playing good teams and playing well on our own field.”

In addition, it’ll mark the first time since 2011 that the Spoofhounds have to restart a home game winning streak. The previous one, which stood at 67 games, was snapped with the 29-28 loss to Lathrop last season in the Class 2 District 8 championship.

“I’m very excited to be playing in Maryville; it’s very special,” Houchin said. “This is my last year here, and I really want to embrace every game until my last one.”



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# MHS aims to build on prior success

**TANNER SMITH**  
Sports Reporter I @t\_smith02

Spike, bump, tip and COVID-19 are all words to describe the new season for Maryville volleyball.

The Spoofhounds are coming off a season where they eventually finished 27-8-1 after falling to Pleasant Hill in the first round of the MSHSAA Class 3 State Tournament. The regular season efforts were good enough for an MEC championship, along with being awarded the No. 1 seed in their district, which they went on to win.

Second-year coach Miranda Mizera, a former Northwest volleyball player, is hoping to lead the team to the same accolades the program reached last season — and then some.

“We know what we saw last year and we just need to repeat our efforts,” Mizera said.

The Spoofhounds have a senior class consisting of nine girls, along with many other returners to their lineup. Some key players returning are outside hitter Serena Sendell, who is currently committed to Kansas State for basketball, setter Macy Loe, libero Klarysa Stolte and middle hitter Kelsey Scott.

“We have a strong senior class returning,” Mizera said. “Our focus is to control what is at hand and take it one match at a time.”

**UP NEXT**  
**MHS @ East Buchanan**  
7 p.m. Sept. 3  
Gower, Missouri

Big things are on the line for this team, as the possibility of a season occurring was left hanging in the balance due to coronavirus mitigation efforts. With the return of standout player Serena Sendell, eyes will be on her to continue her dominance at the net.

Despite the uncertainty revolving around the season, Foster said the team continued to prepare as if it were a normal year.

“The girls have prepared the past few weeks for what is ahead of them,” Mizera said. “They know what they need to focus on individually and as a team.”

The Spoofhounds look toward relying on having both a strong defense and offense this season. In a season that’s as unprecedented as this one, returning cornerstone players to the program perhaps give Maryville an advantage over other schools that lost players due to graduation and whatnot.

MSHSAA released a full schedule for fall sports in hopes that there would be little-to-no interruptions due to COVID-19. That plan so far, at least for Maryville, has been



ADDALYNN BRADBURY | NW MISSOURIAN  
During the second set, senior Macy Loe sets it for teammate senior Serena Sundell to score another point for Maryville volleyball. The Spoofhounds ended up winning the first two matches and eventually the third, sweeping Benton 3-0.

spoiled. Sophomore Rylee Vierthaler missed the first game, and possibly more than that due to COVID-19, the team learned two hours before the start of the season.

“We are going to control what we can control and prepare for this

season,” Mizera said. “We want to repeat our efforts from last season.”

The schedule change and shortened season for the Spoofhounds was put in place to try and keep the girls safe and keep high school sports open. Precautions are being taken to provide

a safe environment for not only the players but the coaches as well.

Following their sweep of Benton to start the season, the Spoofhounds will take on East Buchanan Sept. 3 for their first road contest of the season.

## Volleyball debuts with sweep of an MEC foe

**TANNER SMITH**  
Sports Reporter I @t\_smith02

In a rather atypical fashion, Maryville volleyball set Senior Night as the first game of the season, in which the Spoofhounds swept Benton Aug. 31 in the 'Hound Pound.

In the midst of a pandemic, the atmosphere in the gym showed a change, as only select family members are allowed for each athlete. It took three sets for the Spoofhounds to close the deal, and they were led by senior outside hitter Serena Sundell and senior libero Klarysa Stolte.

Before the first game of the season, second-year coach Miranda Mizera felt her team was prepared to get things rolling.

“We have been focusing on our side of the net,” Mizera said. “The team is made up of seven seniors and things are coming natural to them as they understand what it takes to be a successful team.”

Maryville was off to a hot start in the first set, scoring the initial three points of the match before Benton got on the board. Despite seeming out of it, Benton forced Maryville into a timeout after bringing the score to 12-8. Sundell led the way in scoring with back-to-back spikes in the first set.

The defense was led by Stolte in the back court. With many digs and serves, she was able to set her team up to score. The 'Hounds finished the first set with a winning score of 25-17.

Going into the second, there was a much different Cardinal team on the court. It was a back-and-forth score with Benton getting its first lead of the match 5-4. Eventually, the 'Hounds closed out the second set 25-18.



ADDALYNN BRADBURY | NW MISSOURIAN  
Ahead of its season debut against Benton Aug. 31 in the 'Hound Pound, Maryville volleyball huddled, which is a pregame routine for the team. The Spoofhounds swept Benton 3-0 to avoid opening the 2020 season with a loss.

Coming into the third set, Maryville appeared to lack the energy that it brought to the first two.

Halfway through what was the last set of the game, a complication occurred on the court.

Mizera was in the middle of a conversation with Stolte on the side of the court when a mirage of whistles filled the gym at Maryville High School. The official motioned for a point to be deducted from the Spoofhounds and that same point be given to the Cardinals.

Despite the uncertain mishap, Maryville completed the sweep by winning the set 25-21.

The Spoofhounds, Mizera said, are starting to see who is stepping into leadership roles.

“Leadership is coming with time,” Mizera said. “The girls were able to see it from the seniors in the past.”

Stolte’s thoughts on the night

were that she was excited for the opportunity to play during the global pandemic.

“It was great to get both a Senior Night and a full game, as that’s questionable these days,” Stolte said. “We lost one of our starters to contact tracing only three hours before the game, so it was a blessing to have the opportunity to play.”

Stolte said they were looking forward to working towards future games and improving on what was set in place on opening night.

“We’ve got some communication issues that will come with using a rotation we’re not used to, but we’re ready to work for a better flow,” Stolte said.

Stolte and the rest of the Spoofhounds will get another chance to work on things when they play host to East Buchanan at 7 p.m. Sept. 3 in the 'Hound Pound.

“We have been focusing on our side of the net. The team is made up of seven seniors and things are coming natural to them as they understand what it takes to be a successful team.”

**-MIRANDA MIZERA**

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ADDALYNN BRADBURY | NW MISSOURIAN

Maryville football senior wide receiver Caleb Kreizinger stretches at the beginning of practice during warmups. The Spoofhounds make their return to the 'Hound Pound when they host Harrisonville Sept. 4 in hopes of avoiding an 0-2 start for the first time since the 2005 season.

# 'Hounds look to avoid 0-2

CALVIN SILVERS  
Sports Reporter I @CalvinSilvers

The last time the Maryville football team started a season with two straight losses, George W. Bush was starting his second term as President, YouTube went online and “Star Wars: Episode III Revenge of the Sith” was released in theaters.

On Sept. 4, the Spoofhounds (0-1) will look to avoid having zero wins entering Week 3 when they host Harrisonville (1-0) at the 'Hound Pound for another non-conference matchup.

Maryville coach Matt Webb and his players have no sense of pressure when it comes to avoiding the 0-2 start.

“In 2005, half of these kids weren’t even born,” Webb said. “There’s no pressure in them from

something that happened in 2005. All we’re going to worry about are things that we can control.”

Maryville was given a fair dose of adversity in a Week 1 matchup against Blair Oaks. Starting senior quarterback Ben Walker left the game with an apparent left knee injury sustained right before half-time. Along with that, the program left behind nine players due to COVID-19-related issues.

Those circumstances, mixed with an explosive Blair Oaks offense, resulted in a 51-8 loss for the Spoofhounds.

Senior Spoofhound running back Trey Houchin has already erased the memory of the Blair Oaks matchup.

“I felt a lot of mixed feelings from last week,” Houchin said. “I am ready to move on, however, and focus on Harrisonville.”

This matchup against the Wildcats is a rematch of last year’s Week 2 meeting between the schools, in which Maryville made itself comfortable in the endzone, winning 56-20.

## 2005

The last time Maryville football lost two games to start a season was 2005.

Walker was under center in last year’s matchup. A year later, the Spoofhounds will have an unfamiliar face leading the offense against the Wildcats as the availability of Walker for the rest of the season is hanging in the balance.

### UP NEXT

MHS vs Harrisonville  
7 p.m. Sept. 4  
'Hound Pound

The senior’s injury pertains to the knee area, and while the severity and diagnosis aren’t confirmed yet, it appears Walker will miss the entire season, according to social media posts.

With Walker expected to be unavailable against Harrisonville, the signs are pointing towards junior quarterback Connor Drake to get the starting position. Drake replaced the injured Walker and led the Spoofhound offense for three possessions, including one that was capped off with a 29-yard passing touchdown.

SEE HOUNDS | A8

# Testing leaves MIAA sports in jeopardy for 2020-21

JON WALKER  
Sports Editor I @ByJonWalker

The MIAA CEO Council issued a statement Aug. 14 that all fall sports are suspended until Jan. 1, 2021.



MIAA Commissioner Mike Racy said that if there aren’t any changes to the requirements from the NCAA, there won’t be sports among the MIAA for the rest of the school year.

“I think the thing that became too big of a weight to lift were the testing restrictions that the NCAA put in,” Racy said. “The amount of testing, and how quick those results needed to be received after testing was done, it made it really impractical and too expensive for any of our schools to be able to do that.”

On the same day that the initial suspension was announced, Northwest Director of Athletics Andy Peterson reverberated the fact that the MIAA had exercised all options to try and make fall sports happen as regularly scheduled as possible. Peterson, along with Racy, didn’t find the logistics to work out in the manner that was needed for competitions to be possible while doing what’s in the best interest for the student-athletes.

“It went by a lot of people to try to make fall sports happen,” Racy said. “It’s heartbreaking for our student-athletes and coaches that have to go through this, but I think everybody that has been a part of this understands how hard our presidents and athletic directors worked to try and make fall sports happen this year.”

The language used by the MIAA

in the press release allows for the possibility of fall sports being played in the spring. That is, Racy said, if the very logistics that hindered fall sports are modified to make any competition more feasible for the remainder of the year.

Should a football season occur in the spring, it won’t be the same thing that MIAA fans are accustomed to. Northwest coach Rich Wright said that might not be a bad thing in terms of player safety.

It won’t be a full schedule in the spring. Instead, it will more than likely be a limited number of scheduled games, Racy said. With that, schools among the MIAA would have the availability to explore the option of scheduling non-conference games.

“What I contemplated doing, if they were gonna let us play some this fall, I really wanted to play maybe a couple of MIAA schools that were close,” Wright said. “But I also wanted to play some midwest FCS schools.”

The option for Wright’s plan to have a chance for execution rides on the same modifications that are putting winter sports in jeopardy, Racy said. The status of fall sports will be left hanging in the balance until a date that is nearer to the scheduled resumption date at the beginning of next year.

The fate of winter sports will be left hanging in the balance until no later than Oct. 1, Racy said.

The weeks leading up to the decision on winter sports will be accompanied by two meetings from the presidents, in which they’ll represent their respective universities. The first of those meetings will oc-



GABI BROOKS | FILE

On Aug. 14, the MIAA’s CEO Council announced the suspension of fall sports until Jan. 1, 2021. MIAA Commissioner Mike Racy said winter sports are in jeopardy if changes to the NCAA’s testing requirements aren’t made.

cur in the middle of September. The second will be towards the end of the month, right before the decision is made.

The athletic directors for each university will have three conference calls before the Oct. 1 deadline as well.

“In both groups, they’ll be looking at some of the health statistics and data from our MIAA communities,” Racy said. “They’ll be looking at any updates or information from the NCAA, as it relates to their new health restrictions and if there’s been changes in testing protocol or anything like that.

They’ll use all of that information to make a decision by that October 1st deadline.”

“We’re gonna need the NCAA to make some further modifications, I think, for us to be able to play in the winter,” Racy said.

Racy said that he hopes the possible changes on behalf of the NCAA include ones that reflect the new guidelines of the CDC. Specifically referencing the new regulation in which it’s not required or advised to test individuals who don’t show symptoms of COVID-19 and were not within close contact of a positive individual for more than 15 minutes.

Despite the guidance from the CDC, the NCAA is still requiring that every student-athlete is tested. Those changes, of course, would make it less sufferable and more practical on the execution and cost for the MIAA.

If modifications aren’t made, winter sports — any sports for that matter — will be put on hold until at least the fall of 2021.

“We’re hoping within the next few weeks that we can see the NCAA continue making changes and modifications,” Racy said. “We’ll need to see that for winter sports to happen.”